

TEN PERCENT
Ryan Parsons

It's Thanksgiving week. Can you believe it?

And the REAL question that hits every person on this very special of weeks is...WILL I be THANKFUL? REALLY. REAL THANKFULNESS.

Luke tells us a story of Jesus about ten lepers who cried out to Jesus to have mercy on them (Luke 17:11-19). Their greatest aspiration and longing was for healing. As Jesus responded to their pleas, he instructed them to "go show yourselves to the priests." The priests were somewhat like physicians, and you could only get your pass back into the community by getting their "all clear" diagnosis. Most of these men had likely been before the priests only to get bad news. So, as they obeyed, I believe they were watching their skin to see if Jesus' instructions had any merit or if it was only a false hope. As their skin was renewed before their very eyes, I can imagine that the excitement was palpable as they realized their torture was finally over. No doubt there were some first-century fist pumps and high-fives going on as they went to claim their new lease on life. Then, the most surprising things happened. One crazy leper stopped dead in his tracks and turned around. Usually, a group is convicted by the pure motives of a single member who takes such a drastic move. Yet he turned and returned ALONE. What happens next is the most beautiful thing. This man found and fell at the feet of Jesus, pouring forth thanks. A Samaritan.

Luke 17

15 Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice; 16 and he fell on his face at Jesus' feet, giving him thanks. Now he was a Samaritan. 17 Then Jesus answered, "Were not ten cleansed? Where are the nine? 18 Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?" 19 And he said to him, "Rise and go your way; your faith has made you well."

Only 10% returned to give thanks. Really? 10%. I think everyone who reads that story says internally, "I would never snub Jesus like that!" Yet, this real-life episode was shared to challenge the readers on their thankfulness. There exists a danger to know God but "not honor him as God or give thanks to him (Romans 1:21a)." We don't ever want to be in that demographic. Before we get caught up in the pomp and circumstance of the Thanksgiving holiday, let us ask ourselves...Will I give thanks at the feet of Jesus?

Psalm 9:1-2

*I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart;
I will recount all of your wonderful deeds.
I will be glad and exult in you;
I will sing praise to your name, O Most High.*